INSIDE OUT EXHIBITION NOW ON VIEW

1938-2021
Remembering Helen Rae

Tierra del Sol Gallery reports that Helen Rae, the contemporary artist who broke down barriers in art, age and accessibility died February 12 at age 83. CMA is proud to have featured Helen Rae in our 2019-20 exhibition Vanguard.

Rae was a visual artist who was inspired by couture photography, transformed simple materials of graphite, colored pencil and paper into intricate forms and figures. She grew up in Claremont. Deaf and nonverbal, she learned sign language and other methods of communication, most importantly visual art. At 50 years old, she enrolled in the Tierra Del Sol Studio Art Program, where she discovered her own expressive language.

With the encouragement of her teacher Rebecca Hamlin at Tierra Del Sol and the tenacity of The Good Luck Gallery principal Paige Wery, Helen’s artistic style transcended traditional naming and she soon became known around the world from gallery shows in New York and Paris to the pages of Vogue Magazine. At 83, she was still in pursuit of the visual imagery that enabled her to break free of the limitations the world tried to impose on her.

Hamm who worked with Helen for 31 years offered this fitting tribute, “Helen inspired hundreds of artists she worked with in the studios and, before that, her early teachers who broadened her world with sign language. Her courageous life, joyful persistence and intensely creative work will live forever.”

Making Progress
The City of Claremont’s long planned grading and repaving of the north patio brings the entire historic Claremont Depot to grade level. This completes the mandated accessibility and seismic retrofitting project funded by Metrolink Prop C funds.
Meet Our New Board Members

Juliet Polk Howland Kane is a lifelong resident of Claremont, and a talented artist. She and her husband Kelly are raising their two young sons, Seth and Eli. Kane received her BA in Environmental Studies at the University of Southern California, with a minor in Drawing. She attended law school at the University of California Los Angeles, and has worked at the Claremont firm, Buxbaum and Chakmak, first as a project finance attorney and then as an estate planning attorney. Juliet joined the CMA Board “to support the Claremont artists and to bring art to the community”.

Sheri Nagel first lived in Claremont when she attended Scripps College, graduating with a BA in International Relations, and then Claremont Graduate School, completing an MA in Education. She was married to her college sweetheart for 30 years and has been widowed for the last 20 years. Sheri has a daughter Carrie and a grandchild Damien age 16. She worked for 39 years at the Central School District in Rancho Cucamonga, where she succeeded in several roles, progressing from a 7th grade teacher to Superintendent. Relocating to Claremont in 2005, Sheri has volunteered for the Claremont Committee on Aging, as well as serving on the Boards of Mt. San Antonio Gardens, Claremont Heritage, Joan Macy School, Children’s Foundation of America, and the Foothill Philharmonic Committee. She is currently on the Claremont Unified Citizens Oversight Committee, and the Claremont High School WASC team. Sheri is thrilled to support the Claremont Museum of Art and looks forward to serving on the board. She is especially interested in the exciting work being done with the ARTStART program.

Christopher N. Oberg and his wife Carol have been longtime Claremont residents and have two grown children. Oberg has worked in higher education for over 40 years beginning his administrative career at Claremont Graduate University, where he was first the Associate Academic Dean of (then) CGS, and subsequently its founding CFO. He served in several key leadership roles at Western New England College, in Massachusetts, and returned to California to serve as Executive Vice President at Western University of Health Sciences. Currently he is the Executive VP and CFO at the WASC Senior College and University Commission. He received his BA in philosophy from the University of California, San Diego, and his PhD in education and philosophy, with an emphasis on higher education, from CGU.

Christopher was attracted to join the CMA Board “because of the commitment of the current directors, the wealth that can be gained by having a vibrant arts community exhibiting regularly, and the rare nature of the Claremont artistic community, whose history and present should be celebrated.”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

Our path for 2021 is filled with anticipation as we look ahead, remaining true to our mission while evolving, growing and seeking meaningful ways to engage with the community. In the coming months CMA will:

• Continue our arts education program in all Claremont elementary schools, providing innovative art lessons and art making videos for students and their families on our YouTube channel, and return to classroom instruction as soon as it is possible.

• Launch a campaign to complete the renovation of the two eastern rooms of the historic Depot into galleries - new spaces for art, programs, and civic connections; and glass-in the west portico for a larger gift shop and other community activities.

• Present the summer exhibition: Elizabeth Turk’s “Look Up,” an immersive work with spectacular aerial footage of movement patterns by the residents of Mt. San Antonio Gardens carrying brightly colored umbrellas, revealing a message of hope, unity, resilience and optimism.

• Mount two additional exciting exhibitions: Furious Garden will display/Present the summer exhibition: Elizabeth Turk’s “Look Up,” an immersive work with spectacular aerial footage of movement patterns by the residents of Mt. San Antonio Gardens carrying brightly colored umbrellas, revealing a message of hope, unity, resilience and optimism.

The Board made strategic decisions to continue our arts education program, Project ARTStART, through virtual programming, maintain employment of our museum associates even with the museum closed and to utilize social media for exhibition and art making access. Additionally, the Board cut certain initiatives which reduced 2020 expenses to $266,887, allowing for an increase in net assets of $28,957.

Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, who stepped up and more than doubled the amount of donations budgeted for the year, and the Board’s proactive cost containment measures, CMA has weathered this extraordinary year and is in a position to resume and expand museum offerings in 2021.

– Rae Rodman, Treasurer